

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A device for operating a valve comprising:
2 at least one handle pivotally attached to a first shaft,
3 a second shaft slidable in a telescoping arrangement with said first shaft and
4 rotationally coupled to said first shaft; and
5 a valve coupling element attached to said second shaft for coupling rotational
6 motion from said handle to said valve.
- 1 2. A device as in claim 1 wherein said handle is attached to said first shaft at the
2 center of the length of said handle.
- 1 3. A device as in claim 1 wherein said handle is attached to said first shaft at one end
2 of the length of said handle.
- 1 4. A device as in claim 1 wherein said first shaft is the outer shaft and said second
2 shaft is the inner shaft in said telescoping arrangement.
- 1 5. A device as in claim 4 wherein at least part of the length of said inner shaft has a
2 cross section forming one of the set including a rectangle, triangle, hexagon, and spline.
- 1 6. A device as in claim 5 wherein said rectangle is a square.
- 1 7. A device as in claim 1 wherein said valve coupling element is attached to said
2 second shaft by welding.
- 1 8. A device as in claim 1 wherein said valve coupling element is removable from
2 said second shaft.
- 1 9. A device as in claim 1 wherein said valve coupling element includes a
2 substantially rectangular recess for coupling to a valve.

1 10. A device as in claim 1 wherein said valve coupling element is V shaped wherein
2 the vertex of said V is attached to said second shaft and the open portion of said V is for
3 coupling to said valve.

1 11. A device as in claim 1 further including a locking mechanism for locking said
2 first shaft and said second shaft in a fixed relative position.

1 12. A device as in claim 11 wherein said locking mechanism comprises a spring
2 loaded button located in said second shaft.

1 13. A method for operating a valve comprising the steps of:
2 1) providing a valve wrench, said valve wrench comprising a foldable handle
3 coupled to a telescoping shaft, said telescoping shaft having a valve coupling
4 element attached thereto;
5 2) extending said telescoping shaft;
6 3) unfolding said handle;
7 4) coupling said valve wrench to said valve; and
8 5) rotating said valve wrench to adjust said valve.

1 14. A method as in claim 13 wherein said valve wrench further includes a locking
2 means configured to lock said telescoping shaft in at least a storage configuration, the
3 method further including the step of unlocking said telescoping shaft.